

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: Isaac Davis Trail			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Acton Trail			
2. LOCATION			
Congressional District 3			
STREET AND NUMBER: Hayward Street, Musket Drive, Minuteman Road, Woodbury Lane and Main Street,			
CITY OR TOWN: Strawberry Hill Road, Barrett's Mill Road, Barnes Hill Road. Acton, Concord			
STATE Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Town of Acton, Town of Concord			
STREET AND NUMBER: Town Hall			
CITY OR TOWN: Acton, Concord	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	STATE: Mass.

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Middlesex County Registry of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Cambridge and Third Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: Office of the Secretary, State House			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>The historic area of the Isaac Davis Trail consists of roadways owned by the Towns of Acton and Concord and of two easements over private property owned by the Town of Acton. Even though much of the route is over tarred roads, the six-mile Trail gives the impression of remaining just as it was on April 19, 1775, when Captain Davis led the Acton Company from his home to the Muster Field in Concord. The Trail gives this impression because the roads are lined by stone walls, woods and flora, and houses are set well back.</p> <p>The Trail from Captain Davis' House in Acton moves in a northeasterly direction one and one-quarter miles along Hayward Street, Musket Drive, Minuteman Road, Woodbury Lane and Main Street. It then turns and moves more easterly, one and one-half miles over the cart path and town easement to Strawberry Hill Road. Here it turns again and moves in a southerly direction for one and three-quarters miles along Strawberry Hill Road to Barrett's Mill Road, where it runs more easterly for three-quarters of a mile into Concord to Lowell Road. It then crosses Lowell Road and continues east/south-east for three-quarters of a mile along Barnes Hill Road, crossing Liberty Street to the Muster Field at the North Bridge.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian; ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) April 19, 1775

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | holiday observance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Isaac Davis Trail is important both historically and symbolically. It is the route the Acton Company took on April 19, 1775, from Captain Isaac Davis' House (still standing) to the Muster Field near the Concord River. Here the men from the "Eighteen Towns" met to make the forward move across the Old North Bridge which began the American Revolution. When flames rose from Concord Village, it was Isaac Davis who gave the famous answer to Major Hosmer's question. Hosmer asked, "Will you let the town burn?" Davis replied, "I have not a man who is afraid to go." And he proved it by leading the Acton Company at the head of the line marching to the Bridge and being "the first to fall" of Longfellow's "Midnight Ride of Paul Revere."

The exact path of the historic march was mapped in 1896 by the son of a veteran of the "Concord Fight" whose father had taken him over the same route. Today thousands gather at Davis' House each year on the morning of Patriot's Day. Leaving at the time Davis started, they trudge the six miles to the Muster Field to re-enact the deeds of the Acton Company. And Acton reminds the world with each re-enactment that on that famous day her men were "Not afraid to go."

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Letter to Lemuell Shattuck, Esq. of Boston from Josiah Adams, Esq. of Framingham. Boston: Damrell and Moore Printers, 1850.

Deposition of Solomon Smith, Middlesex County, July 10, 1835.

Tourtellot, Arthur B. Lexington and Concord. New York: W.W. Norton, 1959.

Maps:

Miscellaneous maps of Concord. Massachusetts State Archives.

Replica of the line of March of the Acton Minutemen, April 19, 1775.

Old North Bridge Society, Albert Woods Testimony, July, 1896.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	42° 29' 38"	71° 25' 00"				
NE	42° 29' 38"	71° 23' 06"				
SE	42° 28' 04"	71° 23' 06"				
SW	42° 28' 04"	71° 25' 00"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10.4 Acres (approx.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:	
Richard W. Hale, Jr., Acting Chairman	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Massachusetts Historical Commission	12/14/71
STREET AND NUMBER:	
Office of the Secretary, State House	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Boston	Massachusetts
	CODE
	025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☒ Local ☒

Name John F. X. Davoren
 JOHN F. X. DAVOREN
 Title Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman,
Massachusetts Historical
Commission
 Date December 28, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Acton Trail			
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STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Concord Maynard			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1958 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

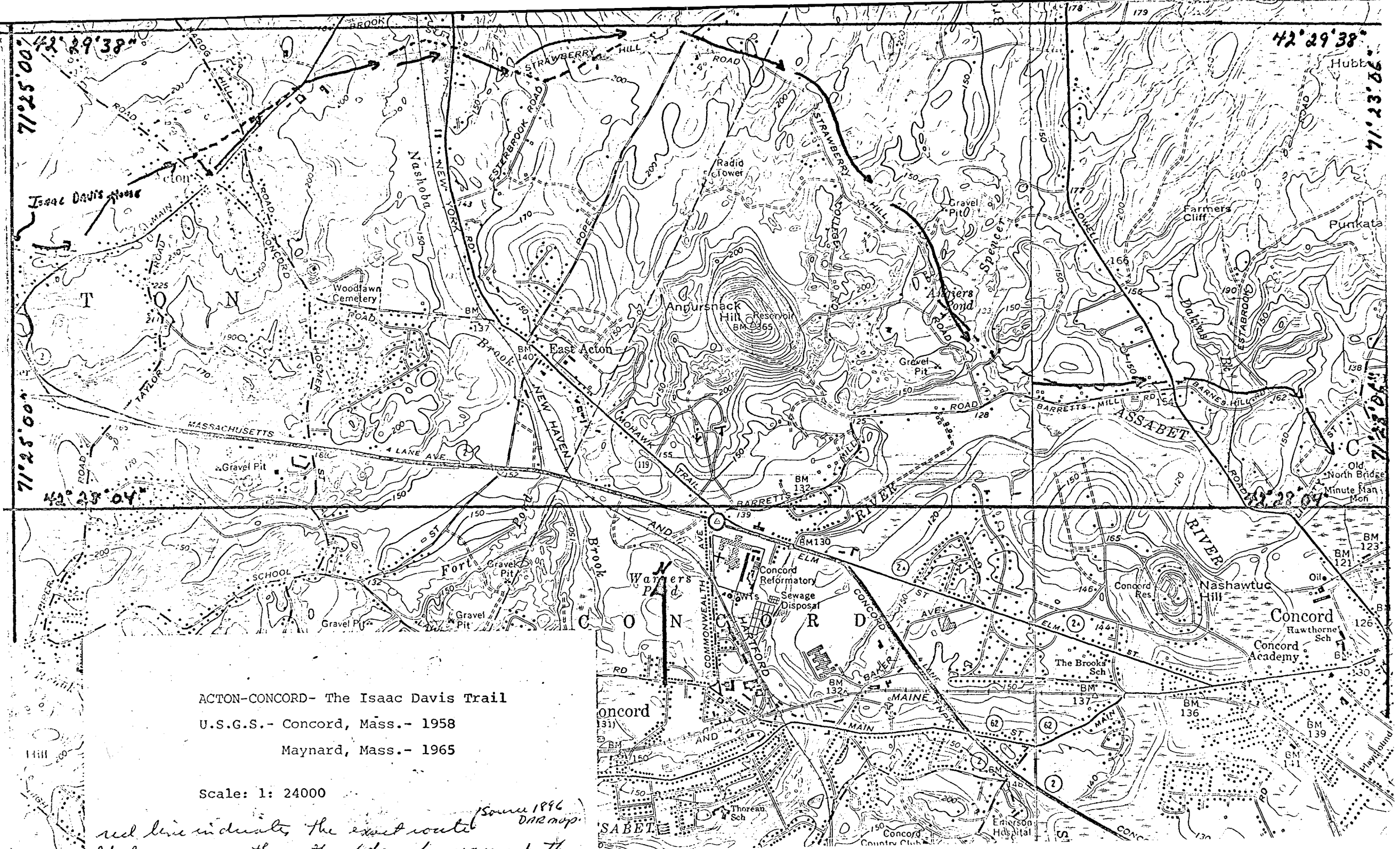
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
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CITY OR TOWN: Acton, Concord			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: J. Michael Franceschi			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Massachusetts Historical Commission, State House, Boston, Mass., 02133			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. general view to the northwest on Strawberry Hill Road in Concord			



ACTON-CONCORD- The Isaac Davis Trail
U.S.G.S.- Concord, Mass.- 1958
Maynard, Mass.- 1965

Scale: 1: 24000

*red line indicates the exact route
black arrows are the paths taken to survey to the
Source 1896 DAR map.*